He was almost immediately given the task of begging, which he carried out with exemplary simplicity for forty years. He would travel the roads of Rome to help the sick and poor and to invite the children to praise the Lord through his enlightened catechesis. St. Philip Neri was a close friend of his and St. Charles Borromeo sought out his company. He died on May 18, 1587, after receiving a vision of the Most Holy Virgin surrounded by an innumerable host of Angels. At the age of 12, he was hired as a shepherd by a rich land owner. The lad stood out for his piety and love of silence. To attend Holy Mass, he would leave the care of his flock to Divine Providence, certain that nothing would happen to his animals. As a matter of fact, none of his animals caused him the least problem in the neighboring fields. Intrigued, his companions would spy on him to try to understand how this could happen. Every time they saw him leave for church, at once a mysterious shepherd would take his place: it was his Guardian Angel.